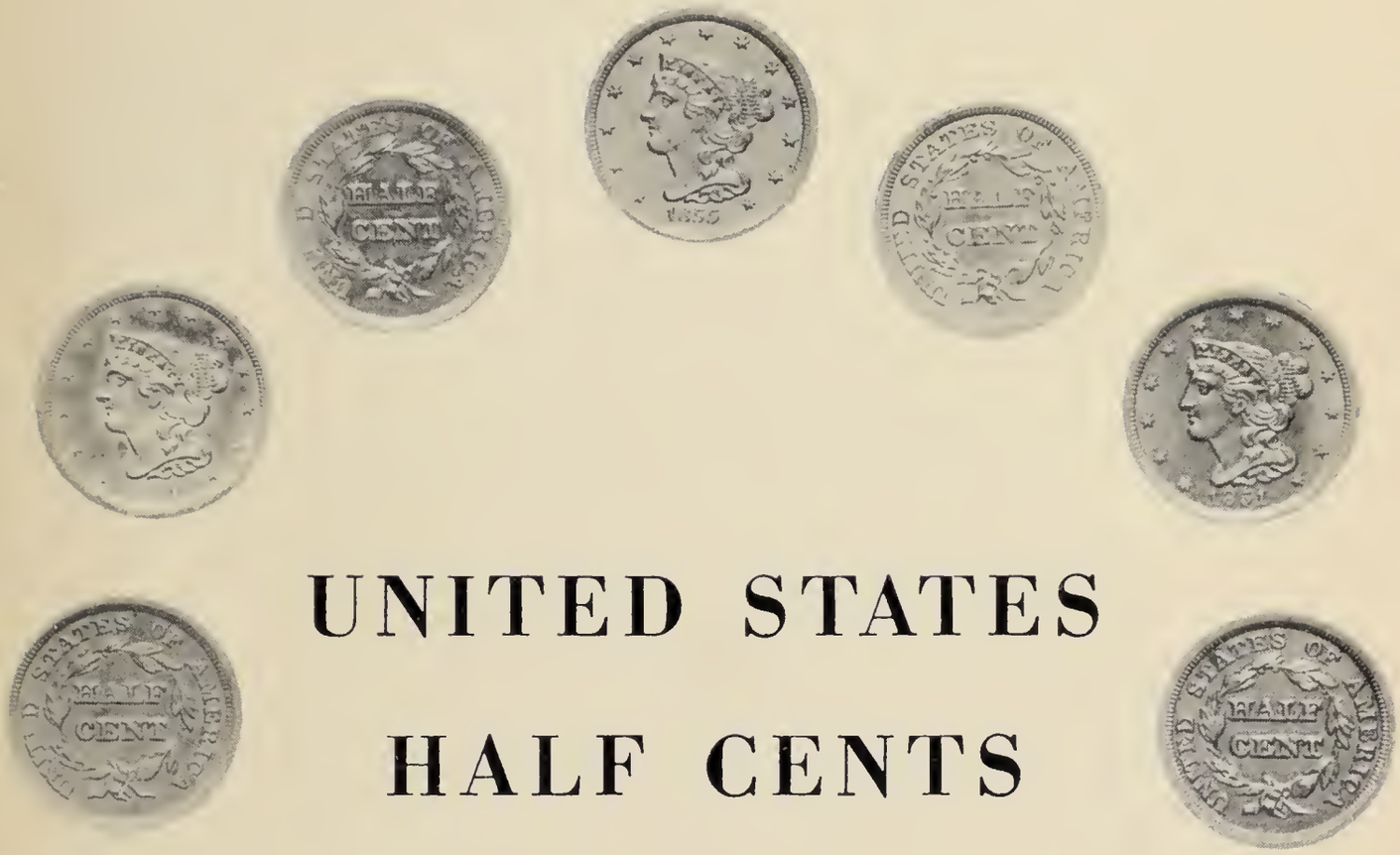

UNITED STATES HALF CENTS

by Ebenezer Gilbert

Originally Published March 1916

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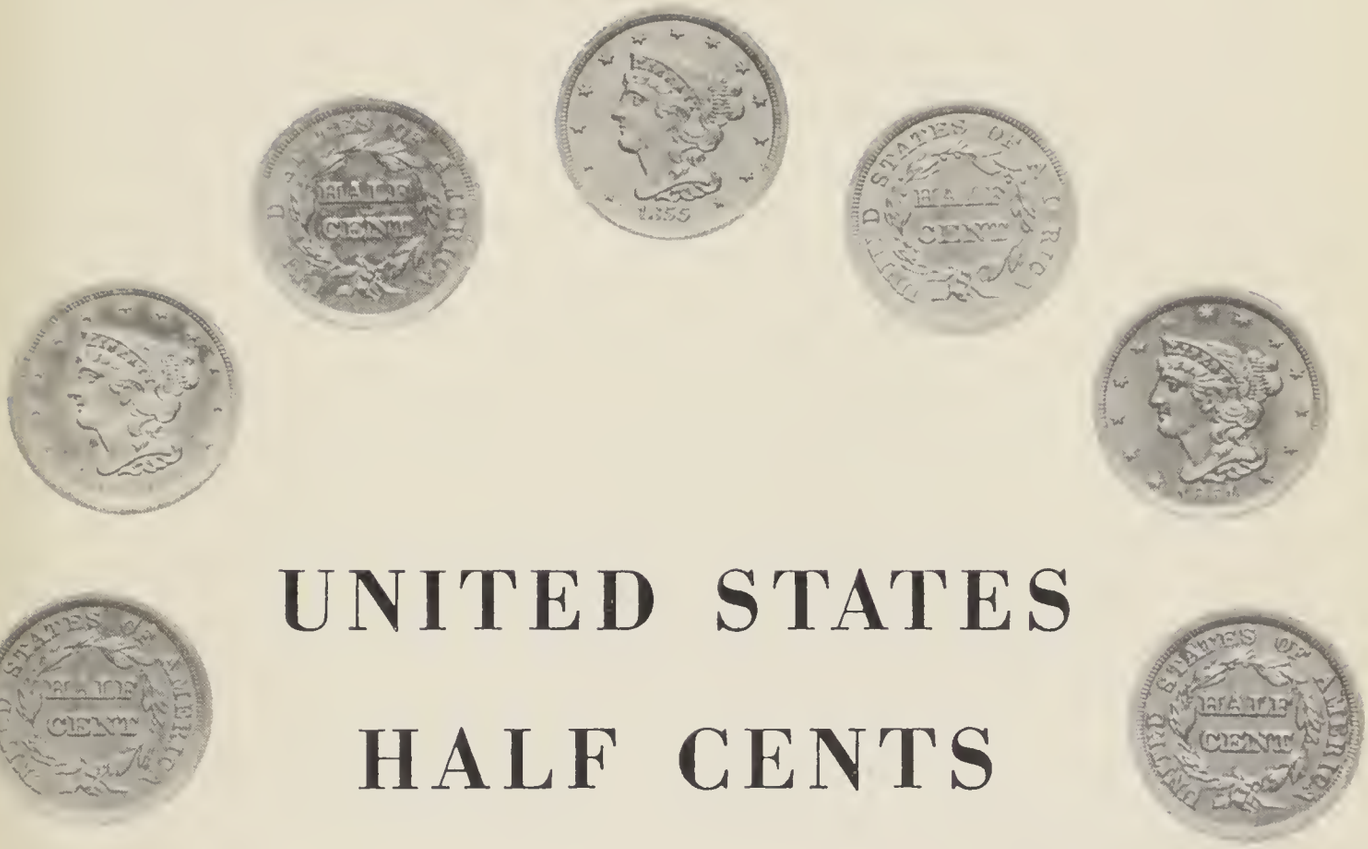

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222 West Central Street
Natick, MA 01760
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The general designs of all the HALF CENTS issued by authority of the United States Government were in some respects similar but differing slightly in types and details from time to time. The obverse of each year bears the bust or head of Liberty, with the motto "LIBERTY" above, and date beneath. The reverse shows a wreath formed by two branches of laurel with leaves and berries, enclosing the words HALF CENT, and surrounded by the lelend "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." On the earlier coins the fractional value 1/200 was placed between the stem ends of the branches of the wreath, and the edge lettered "TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR." The lettering of the edge was discontinued during 1795 and not used again, except in a single instance—one variety of 1797 retaining it.

In 1800 an entirely new obverse was adopted, being that of the large CENTS coined in 1797 and later. The reverse of the 1800 HALF CENT is nearly identical with the reverse of 1795 struck on thin planchet, but in 1802 a new reverse was adopted, being the reverse of the ONE CENT of that period, and used until and including 1808.

In 1809 another change in design was made in both obverse and reverse—being a copy of the ONE CENT pieces of that period, and with slight variations used on all HALF CENTS coined prior to 1840.

All HALF CENTS bearing dates from and including 1840 to 1857 are of similar design, both obverse and reverse, as that of the ONE CENT coin first issued by the Mint in 1843.

Coins showing minor die defects will not be considered as separate varieties; but all important cracks, breaks and other accidental die imperfections will be noted in this work to assist in the identification of the various varieties.

All measurements given are in millimeters, but have been omitted wherever sufficient visible differences exist, which, when described in detail, will enable the reader to accurately identify the different numbers.

93000054

U. S. HALF CENTS.

1793

General description:—Head of Liberty facing to the left. Above the head is the word LIBERTY, and below, the date. The hair is confined about the head by a narrow band, and falls over and behind the shoulder, terminating in pointed locks. Over the right shoulder is a staff supporting a Liberty cap at the back of the head. The end of the staff lays parallel with the line of the bust, which is pointed. The reverse has a wreath formed of two branches of laurel, ornamented with sprays of berries, and enclosing the word HALF CENT. The branches are tied together at the bottom with a ribbon; in the outward angle, formed by the ends of the ribbon, is the fractional value of the coin-1/200. Around the wreath is the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The edge is lettered TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR.

The Salient Points of each number are given in Index Lines preceding the detailed descriptions, and many varieties can easily be identified by these lines alone.

1793

No. 1.

Low L partly over hair

15 leaves on each branch of wreath

Obv. The letters of LIBERTY are uniformly spaced, with the L partly over the forehead. The Y close to cap, which is small, and with rounded top. The locks of hair are all long, the lowest one curling to the left, and nearly touching the 3 in date. The staff is close to and parallel with the line of the bust, and both terminate at about the same distance from the beaded border.

Rev. The legend distant from border. In STATES the second T is very close to the E. All letters of AMERICA widely spaced. Each branch of wreaths bears fifteen leaves, the terminal leaves nearly meeting under the final S in STATES. There are eight sprays of berries on the left branch, and nine on the right. Stem ends long, that at the right joining the right ceriph of A. Dividing line of fraction long and curved, the figure 2 in denominator nearly touches the left ribbon, and the first cipher is too low.

No. 2.

Low L partly over hair

13 leaves on left branch, 14 on right

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Legend nearly equi-distant from leaves of wreath and the beaded border. E in UNITED is high and very close to D. In STATES the T and A nearly connect at their base line. Other letters of legend nearly uniformly spaced. The left branch of wreath has 13 leaves and 9 sprays of berries, and the right branch 14 leaves and 10 sprays. Stem ends very long and nearly equi-distant from U and A. Ribbon ends also long, and forked for fully one-half of their length. In the fraction the 2 is slightly nearer the dividing line than are the other figures.

No. 3.

Letter L entirely over forehead

15 leaves on each branch

Obv. The legend LIBERTY very near the beaded border, with T and Y low. The letter I is directly over the forelock, with Y more distant from cap than on No. 1. The locks of hair similar to No. 1, including the curl near the 3 in date. The pole is farther from line of bust. In date 1 and 7 are near the border, while the 9 and 3 are more distant from it. Sometimes found with double profile.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 1.

No. 4.

Letter L entirely over forehead

15 leaves on left branch, 16 leaves on right.

Obv. Same as No. 3.

Rev. Letters of legend uniformly spaced, except T A in STATES, which are very close together at their base line. The left branch has 15 leaves, and the right 16, with 10 sprays of berries on each. The stem end at the left touches the letter U, that at the right is longer and terminates near the border. The divididing line of the fraction is slim and very long. The 2 in

denominator is too high, and the entire fraction too far to the right. There is a period after the word *America*. Ribbon ends long and forked.

Note:—Crosby's equivalents of the HALF CENTS of 1793.

No. 1 is Crosby's 1-A.
No. 2 is Crosby's 1-B.
No. 3 is Crosby's 2-A.
No. 4 is Crosby's 2-C.

1794

No. 1.

Small head—4 nearly touches bust—9 berry reverse

Obv. The R in LIBERTY is very near to the hair; and in date the 4 is very close to the bust, but does not touch it, and the 1 is 2 mm. distant from the hair. The distinguishing feature of this obverse is the high relief of the hair.

Rev. Fifteen fully formed leaves on each branch of the wreath. On fine specimens two additional leaves are shown in outline within the wreath, one opposite the letter H and the other opposite F. There are five berries on the left branch and 4 on the right, with but one within the wreath on each branch. The legend is midway between wreath and milled border, with nearly all of the letters uniformly spaced. Wide space between HALF and CENT. In the fraction the numerator touches the left ribbon, the end of which curves abruptly to the right, and points to the top of figure 2, which is too small. The only letter on this reverse touched by a leaf is T in CENT.

Note:—This Obv. is often found with a die break from milling to hair, passing through the lower part of the cap.

No. 2.

"Small head, 4 nearly touching bust.

Rev. 12 berries—Leaf touches left stand of H."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Legend midway between border and wreath, with all letters widely spaced. The letters A too small and S too low wherever they occur. They are 14 leaves on the left branch of

wreath and 18 on the right, with 6 berries on each. The upper berry on the left has a long stem and touches a leaf. The highest berry on the right stands a little to the left of the left foot of A. Within the wreath a leaf connects with the left stand of H and beneath the letter T are two leaves, the top of the one to the left nearly touching the left ceriph of that letter. Stem ends distant from U and A. All figures distant from regula, which is short.

Note:—All specimens of this No. show a die break from border to wreath passing through both arms of E in UNITED.

No. 3.

"Small head, 4 nearly touching bust

Eleven berry reverse."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Legend distant from milling. All letters nearly uniformly spaced. Sixteen leaves on each branch of wreath, with 5 berries on left branch and 6 on the right. The upper berry on the left is without stem and touches the 5th outside leaf; the highest berry on the right is attached to the stem of the leaf which terminates under O in OF. In other details it is the same as Rev. No. 1, except that the numerator does not touch the left ribbon end.

Some specimens show a break from border to wreath passing through the second T in STATES.

No. 4.

"Large head— 9 low. Rev.—12 berries

with a leaf nearly touching top of H."

Obv. The top of letters in LIBERTY 1 mm. from milling; L 2¼ mm. from cap, and R ½ mm. from hair, and date 5¼ mm. wide. Date, excepting the 4 which is too high, stands midway between the bust and border. Staff end long and touches the milling.

Rev. There are 14 leaves on the left branch, and 18 on the right, with 6 berries on each. The upper berry on the left has a long stem and is partly covered by a leaf. The highest berry on the right branch has a short stem connecting it with a leaf. In

UNITED E and D and very near together, the D low and very close to a leaf, and with the exception of ERI in AMERICA the other letters of legend are well spaced. There is a slight die defect between the right ribbon and stem end near where they cross. The figure 2 of the fraction too small and too high.

Note:—The Obv. of this variety is often found with a break to the left of 1 in date, extending nearly to the lower part of the cap, giving a bulging effect to the coin. There are also die cracks on the Rev., one near milling through I in UNITED, and another through M in AMERICA; and still another diagonally through D in UNITED.

No. 5.

"Large head, 7 of date low—Nine berry reverse."

Obv. Head nearly identically the same as No. 4. LIBERTY close to both milling and top of head; date compact and near milling with the 7 a trifle too low, the 9 large, as usual, and the 4 standing one mm. from lower line of bust with no part of date beneath the hair.

Measurements:—Liberty on base line 11 mm.; from cap to L 3 mm.; width of date 5¼.; top of figure 1 to shoulder 2½ mm.

Rev. Same as No. 1.

No. 6.

"Large head, 79 about level at top and close together.
Rev. 12 berries, leaf touching left stand of H."

Obv. Same type as No. 5 but LIBERTY stands a trifle nearer the top of head, letter T distant from R and very close to Y. In date figures 1 and 9 are large and 7 and 4 small, and spaced thus: 1 79 4. The entire date is curved and near milling with figure 1 fully under the lower lock of hair.

Measurements:—From L to cap 3 mm.; R to hair 1 mm.; width of date 6 mm.; top of figure 1 to hair 1½ mm.; 4 to lower line of bust 1 mm.; from L to Y 11 mm.

Rev. Same as No. 2.

Note:—This obv. is frequently found with a slight break from B to E in Liberty.

No. 7.

Large head, 79 about level at top and close together.

Rev. Leaf nearly touching top of H. and another the top of T.

Obv. Same as No. 6.

Rev. Same as No. 4.

No. 8.

Large head, 79 about level at top and close together.

Rev. Eleven berry.

Obv. Same as No. 6.

Rev. Same as No. 3.

No. 9.

"Head large and high—date very low. Eight berry reverse."

Obv. Head high. Liberty near both head and milling; cap and staff extend to the border; date wide, low, curved and close to milling, leaving considerable space between bust and date.

Measurements:—Width of date at top 5½ mm.; top of figure 1 to hair 3½ mm.; top of 4 to lower line of bust 1 mm.

Rev. Similar to No. 1 but has only 4 berries on each branch of wreath including two on the right branch attached to leaves within the wreath, and the denominator of the fractional value *does not* touch the left ribbon. There is an upright leaf with berry attached touching C of CENT which appears on no other reverse of this type known to collectors.

In Dr. Maris' descriptions of the half cents of this year he includes one variety that would be a combination of my Obv. No. 6 with Rev. of No. 9. Neither Steigerwalt nor Frossard mention this variety, and it is unknown to me.

STEIGERWALT'S EQUIVALENTS

My No. 1. is S. No. 1 Obv. and Rev. A.
2 is S. No. 1 Obv. and Rev. B.
3 is S. No. 1 Obv. and Rev. D
4 is S. No. 2 Obv. and Rev. C.
5 is S. No. 3 Obv. and Rev. A.
6 is S. No. 4 Obv. and Rev. B.
7 is S. No. 4 Obv. and Rev. C.
8 is S. No. 4 Obv. and Rev. D.
9 is S. No. 5 Obv. and Rev. E.

1795

No. 1.

"Lettered edge with pole. Rev.—8 berries, 4 on each branch."

Obv. In LIBERTY the letters are fairly well spaced, except that B is distant from both I and E. T directly above highest point of hair, and stands midway between head and milling. L ½ mm. from cap. Date about midway between milling and bust, with 1 (formed like the letter I) distant from 7. End of the staff extends beyond the point of bust.

Rev. Legend nearer wreath than milling, with letters uniformly spaced except U N in UNITED and A M E in AMERICA, where but little space is shown between. There are 17 leaves on the left branch of the wreath and 16 on the right, with 4 berries on each. The numerator nearly rests on dividing line of fraction. Within the second cipher of denominator, and imbedded near the top is a period or berry. The letters within the wreath are very irregularly placed; the A is too small, the C too low, the F and E both leaning to the left and nearly touching the adjoining letters, and the N tilted decidedly to the right and in actual contact with the T. The edge is lettered Two Hundred for a dollar.

Note:—This Obv. sometimes shows a die break before the 1 of date.

No. 2.

"Plain edge with pole. Eight berry reverse; four on each branch."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Same as No. 1. Struck on thick planchet.

No. 3.

"Lettered edge with pole, punctuated date, eight berry reverse."

Obv. In LIBERTY the letters are uniformly spaced, except T and Y, which are very close together. The letters I and R each have a period shape defect attached to the top. In date,

which is wide, there is a flaw in the die between 1 and 7, giving it the appearance of an intended punctuation. The 1 in date is perfectly formed.

Rev. Same as No. 1.

Note:—On some coins from these dies there is a break on Rev. over A M E R.

No. 4.

"Plain edge with pole—punctuated date

7 berry reverse."

Obv. Same as No. 3, but struck on thin planchet with plain edge.

Rev. Legend distant from milling. In UNITED D is low and slightly turned, and the A too small wherever used. Left branch of wreath has 3 berries, one outside near the top, and the right branch 4 berries, two on each side. Wide spaces between HALF and CENT. There is not a leaf on the coin that touches a letter. Fraction very low, top of numerator ⅓ mm. from knot. A slight crack occurs at the stand of the first T in STATES. which extends to the right branch of the wreath.

No. 5.

Plain edge without pole.

Triple leaf under IT.

Three berries on left branch and six on right.

Obv. Same as No. 1, except that the edge is plain, and the staff along the line of the bust is omitted.

Rev. Legend near the wreath, with many of the letters very near the leaves, notably I and D in UNITED, and E I A in AMERICA. 18 leaves on the left branch, and three berries, being all on the inside; and 16 leaves on the right branch, with 3 berries inside of branch and 3 out. Letters A M E in AMERICA crowded close together. All other letters of legend nearly uniformly spaced. HALF CENT central in wreath. Stem ends long, that at the left terminates with a line break, or cut in die. Fraction compact and high, ciphers touching each other.

Note:—This variety is often found struck over Talbot, Album & Lee Cents of 1794.

No. 6.

"Plain edge without pole—7 berry reverse, 3 on left branch and 4 on right."

Obv. Same as No. 5.
Rev. Same as No. 4, with break in die more pronounced.
Sometimes found struck on thick planchet.

No. 7.

"Plain edge with pole, punctuated date, two leaves and two berries under first A in AMERICA."

Obv. Same as No. 4.

Rev. Legend near wreath, with I in UNITED district from N and T, and the E a trifle too large and A too small wherever they occur. In AMERICA the letters M and E connect at their feet, and C distant from I and A. The left branch of the wreath has seventeen leaves and five berries, three of the leaves on one stem directly under E D. The right branch has sixteen leaves and four berries; stem ends long and distant from U and A. There is a berry on each side of the bow. There are two berries on an exact line from the top of F to the left foot of the first A in AMERICA.—one inside the branch and the other on the outside,—and two leaves of wreath terminate under that letter. The C in CENT is low, and the N T connect at the top. The lower leaf within the wreath on the right terminates on a line with the top of the letter T—the word CENT being low. The regula is short—all figures of fraction very close to it, with the numerator near the right ribbon. There is not a leaf on this reverse that touches a letter.

Measurements:—Stem ends from point to point 7½ mm.; ribbon ends 6¼ mm.; from curve of U to right foot of A 10½ mm.; D to S 2¼ mm.; S to O 2¼ mm.; stand of F to A 2¾ mm.

Excessively rare variety, but two specimens actually known.

No. 8.

Plain edge with pole, punctuated date. Eight berry reverse.

Obv. Same as No. 3.

Rev. Same as No. 1. Struck on *thin* planchet, with *plain* edge. It ls believed to be excessively rare as but one specimen is known.

1796

No. 1.

"Plain edge with Pole."

Obv. The word LIBERTY is equi-distant from milling, cap and hair. Figures of date widely spaced with the 6 nearer to bust than the 1 is to lower curl of hair, and the 9 low. Staff long, reaching nearly to the border.

Rev. The legend is very close to the wreath, almost touching it, with letter I C A in AMERICA widely spaced. There are 18 leaves and 4 berries on the left branch of the wreath, and 16 leaves and 3 berries on the right. Both branches terminate with a single leaf pointing directly at each other. Stem ends equal distance from letters U and A. Under the letters I T of UNITED there is a group of three leaves on one stem, and a similar group under E and D of the same word.

No. 2.

"Plain edge without Pole."

Obv. The date is only 7 mm. wide, 9 and 6 are closer together than on No. 1. The distance from tip of nose to nearest point of T is 5 mm. This has the same peculiarity as the 1795 HALF CENT No. 5, it is without pole.

Rev. Same as No. 1.

Note:—This variety sometimes has a break from margin on the left to hair just below the cap, then from center of upper lip to right border.

1797

In this date there are but three obverses and two reverses, however, there are four distinct varieties. From one set of dies some were struck with lettered edge and others with plain edge. Also found struck upon planchets made from U. S. Cents, and Talbot Allum & Lee cards.

No. 1.

"Lettered edge with Pole."

Obv. The head of LIBERTY low, with figures 1 and the first 7 of date nearly touching the lowest curl of hair; the full date being low and near milling, which is deep. The legend "Liberty" is distant from top of head 2¼ mm.; and ¾ mm. from milling. All letters of LIBERTY evenly spaced, except T Y which are close together. The cap is 1½ mm. from the border, and the end of staff nearly touches the milling.

Rev. Legend 1 mm. from border. In UNITED the first two letters are very close together, while the third is distant from both the second and the fourth. In AMERICA the last four letters are widely spaced. The wreath bears 17 leaves on each branch, terminating with single leaves pointing directly at each other. There are 4 berries on left branch and 3 on the right. Stem ends quite long and terminate an equal distance from U and A. Space between HALF and CENT 1¼ mm.; Dividing line of fraction 3¾ mm. Edge lettered "Two Hundred for a Dollar."

No. 2.

"Plain Edge with Pole—date close to bust."

Obv. and *Rev.* Same as No. 1, but this has plain edge instead of lettered edge.

Note:—This Obv. is nearly always found with a die break from chin to milling.

No. 3.

"Plain Edge with Pole—date distant from bust."

Obv. Head of LIBERTY more centrally placed than on the preceeding numbers of this year. Liberty and date both close to milling; the letter R-1⅔ mm. above the highest point of hair; and the cap 1 ¼ mm. from the milling. Less space between 7 and 9 of date than between the other figures; 1 of date a little farther from lower curl than is the final 7 from the bust. Staff extends nearly to the milling.

Rev. Left wreath branch bears 17 leaves and 5 berries, and the right 16 leaves and 3 berries. The terminal leaves same as on Rev. No.1. The letters in the legend uniformly spaced, except that the last S in STATES and I in AMERICA, are quite dis-

tant from the adjoining letters. The first S in STATES is too low. In the fraction the numerator is distant from knot and close to the dividing line. The 2 of the denominator is a trifle larger than the other figures. There is a crack from the border under 2 of fraction running along the tops of U N then up to border over I, on some specimens of this variety.

No. 4.

Plain Edge with Pole—1 over date.

Obv. LIBERTY not quite so close to milling as on No. 3. The date is about ½ mm. to the right of that on No. 3. Directly above 1 is another figure 1, which is much thinner than the lower figure. This "1 over date" is the distinguishing characteristic of this obverse.

Rev. Same as No. 3.

Note:—Coins from these dies are found with cracks, breaks and bulges to such an extent that I believe a detailed description of them will be of interest to the collector. They are as follows, on the obverse:

No. 1. Break from border through the right curves of the letter B in LIBERTY to the head, and down the hair to near the ear.

No. 2. A break at R T Y of LIBERTY with a crack from Y to forehead, then following the outline of the face to the point of the nose and continuing downward, is forked just below the chin, one arm extending to the neck near the pole, and the other to the milling.

No. 3. A short horizontal break connects these two forked breaks at a point about 2 mm. above where the pole touches the neck.

No. 4. A horizontal break about 1 mm. below the top of the head, running from the break first mentioned, to near the center of the forehead.

No. 5. From this last mentioned break, at a point where the hair joins the forehead, another crack occurs which extends downward across the cheek to a point midway between the neck and the outward line of the chin.

No. 6. The outer and inner edges of cap are connected by a break about 2 mm. below the staff.

No. 7. Between the two lower locks of hair a crack is found, extending diagonally to the left to near the border.

No. 8. The end of the staff shows a faint crack extending to the milling.

No. 9. Between the bust and date are slight imperfections in the die showing period like elevations; and again on a line from milling to head, passing between the cap and L, is another series of slight imperfections.

No. 10. There is a slight elevation of metal to the left of L, and another directly above the cap about 3 mm. long, then still another, below the last one mentioned, located between cap and milling.

No. 11. On the reverse a break occurs extending from border above D taking an upward diagonal course to the wreath. A faint crack starts under the 2 of the denominator extending to the right touching the tops of U and N and then to the border above I.

All the cracks, breaks, and defects mentioned above were found on a single coin of this date, but it is not claimed that they occurred or developed in the order in which they are described.

1800

No HALF CENTS were struck at the United STATES Mint during the years 1798 and 1799. Those coined in 1800 are of the same type as the CENTS of that year.

No. 1.

Obv. All letters of LIBERTY uniformly spaced and that work is a little nearer the milled border than to the highest points of hair. Figures of date large, with the final cipher high and nearly touching the bust.

Rev. Letters of legend uniformly spaced, except that in AMERICA the AMER are very close together, and the RICA widely spaced. Left wreath branch bears three berries—all on the inside—and 17 leaves, and the right branch 16 leaves and 4 berries. Stem ends long, that at the left pointing to U, and that on the right to the right of the A. Within the wreath is a berry on each side of the bow. The fraction is a little too far to the right. There is a die break under the stand of E in UNITED to the left wreath branch, and on the same level another connects the tops of two leaves with the C of CENT. Beneath this break is another connecting the left branch with the two upright leaves near C.

Note:—This coin is sometimes found with the entire date double cut, and on some specimens a break is shown through 1 of date and the curl to the left.

1802

No. 1.

Obv. All HALF CENTS of this date are struck from a die first dated 1800, altered by cutting a small 2 within the last cipher. It is, however, positively not the same die as used in coining the known HALF CENTS of 1800, having manifest differences in spacing of the figures of the date and relative positions of the letters of the word LIBERTY as regards the hair. As far as known this die was never used in 1800.

Rev. A. This reverse is entirely different from any of the preceding HALF CENTS. On the left branch of the wreath are 16 leaves and 5 berries, and on the right branch 19 leaves and 6 berries. Between the right stem and the first pair of leaves on the outside is a single berry. This is the only HALF CENT to have a berry in that place, and is its distinguishing characteristic.

Note:—This reverse is usually found in poor condition, and sometimes with slight die breaks from end of stems extending toward A and U.

No. 2.

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Same as on HALF CENT of 1800. This combination is exceedingly rare.

1803

Note:—All HALF CENTS from the UNITED STATES mint bearing dates 1803 up to and including 1808 have 16 leaves on the left wreath branch and 19 on the right branch; and **all** have 5 berries on the right branch. On the left branch the number of berries differ from 5 to 6—but on the left branch of all stemless varieties there are 6 berries. In this date there are two Obverses and four Reverses (in combination) as follows:

No. 1.

"The only 11 berry Variety."

Obv. There is less space between L and I, and E and R on the base line than between other letters of LIBERTY. The letter T is standless both ceriphs missing. Date compact, near border, with figures 1 and 3 equal distance from bust and lowest curl of hair.

Rev. Left wreath branch has 6 berries. The N of UNITED

lacks the inside ceriph on both upright strokes. T and A of STATES nearly connect at their feet; and A M E in AMERICA do connect. All letters of HALF and CENT connect (or nearly so) either at top or bottom; C is low; N a trifle too high, T large. The upper arm of F touches the highest berry on the inside of the right branch.

No. 2.

"Large 1/200 with imperfect regula."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Five large berries on the left branch of wreath. The stand of the letter T wherever used is defective, except in CENT. Letters HAL in HALF are connected at their feet, also A M E of AMERICA. In CENT, C E N are very close together, but do not actually touch. Numerator near short dividing line, which is connected with the right ribbon end by a slight break. Right stem end points to the right foot of A. Figures of fraction quite large, with those in denominator widely spaced.

Note:—This Rev. is often found with a break from border through the left arm of the first T in STATES across the wreath, along the top of F in HALF and passing between A and M to the border on the right. Another extends from border through N in UNITED, the left branch of the wreath, then through E N of CENT and the lower arm of L in HALF and connects with the crack first mentioned.

No. 3.

"Figure 3 in date distant from O

ciphers in denominator nearly connect."

Obv. A close copy of No. 1 In LIBERTY there is less space between E R and a greater space between T Y; and in date the figure 3 is small and farther from the cipher. The letter T wherever used on Obv. or Rev. is imperfect at its base.

Rev. First S in STATES very close to T. Letters A M E in AMERICA are nearly joined on the base line. Right stem end points to the left foot of A, with right ribbon end very close to that letter. Left ribbon end farther from U than on Rev. 2 of which this reverse is a very close copy. The right ceriph of F in HALF is wanting. Letters of legend perceptibly nearer the wreath than on Rev. 2. Regula short, ciphers in denominator nearly touch each other.

Note:—But few coins of this variety are without die imperfections, either in obverse or reverse, or both, usually the latter-notably as follows:

A bulge over 1 and 8 of date; a crack from border almost to back of head; break from border to lower arm of L in LIBERTY; a semi-circular break connecting the upper and lower arms of 3 in date; faint crack from B in LIBERTY to hair; a crack from border touching the right arm of the second T in STATES extends through F in HALF and passing between M and E of AMERICA reaches the right border.

No. 4.

"Large 1/200 Variety with No imperfection in the regula."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. The first outside berry on the left is attached to the stem of the third pair of leaves. This feature is its distinguishing characteristic. The letter T wherever used is lacking its ceriph. Stem ends long; dividing line of fraction very short; the numerator distant from knot, and figures of denominator widely separated. All letters of UNITED and part of those in STATES are very close to the milled border.

Note:—On some specimens of this variety there is a heavy break over the letters S T A T and is continued on as a faint crack, touching the letters E S and O F at the top, and termingating above the C in AMERICA, (or portions of this crack.) A very rare variety.

1804

No. 1.

"Plain 4, with stems."

Obv. In LIBERTY the letter T is low, directly over and close to the forelock. R is but ½ mm. from highest point of hair. In date all figures are uniformly spaced, with the top of 4, which is "plain" nearly touching the bust. Date and legend but ½ mm. from the border.

Rev. All letters of legend perfectly formed and equally spaced, except in AMERICA, the first three letters of which connect at their feet, with but little space between E R I, and C distant from both I and A. The left wreath branch bears six berries; the stem ends very short— 3 mm. each. Right stem end points directly to the right foot of A. All letters in HALF CENT clear from leaves except T, which has its right ceriph covered with lowest leaf on inside of right branch. Letters H A L connect on the base line with L a trifle high. In CENT the N is a little higher than the E, and the T higher than the N. In

the fraction the figures are small and widely spaced, with the 2 a little larger than the ciphers. Stem ends distant from U and A.

No. 2.

"Plain 4 without Stems."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. The wreath is without stem ends. Letters of legend fairly well spaced except in AMERICA, where little space is shown between letters, except that C is quite distant from both I and A, and M-E are connected at base. Letters in HALF CENT all on a line except T, which is a trifle too high. Ribbon ends wide apart. Dividing line of fraction long, with all figures uniformly spaced. A small break in die is seen from tip of left fourth leaf extending through the centre of E in UNITED.

No. 3.

Crosslet 4, nearly touching O of date.

Rev. With stemless wreath.

Obv. Similar to No. 1. In LIBERTY T is properly placed, and a trifle farther from the forelock than on No. 1, and R is minus its right ceriph at the bottom. In date the 4 stands high and is "crosslet" with its left angle very near the cipher.

Rev. Same as No. 2.

No. 4.

Crosslet 4, nearly touching O in date.

Rev. With Stems.

Obv. Same as No. 3.

Rev. The letter T in every instance is devoid of ceriphs at the bottom. Letters of AMERICA very compact. In HALF A and L are connected at the bottom. All letters in CENT very close together, with the T a trifle too high. But 5 berries on left branch of wreath. Right stem end points to the left foot of A, which letter is very close to the right ribbon end. Dividing line of fraction very short. There is a break in die from milling to top of R.

No. 5.

"Crosslet 4 With Stems—4 Distant from O in date."

Obv. An exceedingly close copy of No. 4. On this number the word LIBERTY is nearly ½ mm. to the left, which brings

the letters E R in a different position in relation to the highest points of hair. The Y is low. In date the 4 is farther from the cipher than on No. 4. A very fine crack runs through the center of I B E R on all good specimens.

Rev. Same as No. 4.

Note:—This Obv. is also found with the crack through the center of I B E R, breaking out at tops of R T Y to border. Also one extending from Crosslet of 4 through the drapery to border in front of bust; also identation before date, and bottoms of 1-8-0 obliterated.

No. 6.

"Figure 4 of date touches bust, ciphers of denominator nearly touch each other."

Obv. The arms of Y do not spread so wide as on previously described numbers of this year. Letters of LIBERTY compact with but little space between the head and that word. The upright of R directly over the highest point of hair, and the stand of T close to and above the forelock. The 4 of date high and touches the drapery.

Rev. Same as No. 3 of 1803.

No. 7.

"Spiked chin and protrudinf tongue; crack connects R in America to border."

Obv. Apparently the same as No. 6, but from the chin a conical projection extends horizontally about 2 mm.; and from the partly open lips a tongue-like object protrudes. This obverse has a very slight crack from L to R of LIBERTY, along the top of letters.

Rev. Same as No. 4.

Note:—The very slight crack through L I B E R extends until it breaks out to border over those letters on some specimens subsequently struck from these dies.

No. 8.

"Spiked Chin, with slight break from right stem end."

Obv. Same as No. 7.

Rev. Every letter T on this Rev. is defective at the bottom. Letters in entire legend uniformly spaced. Within the wreath, C is the only letter in actual contact with a leaf. Stem ends short, that at the right ending in a fine line which points to the right foot of A. Ribbon end at the left very close to letter U, that to the right nearly twice the distance from A.

This Reverse is of special interest to collectors who study the development of cracks and breaks, as it is seldom found free from die imperfections. Specimens do exist in perfect condition, but are more often found with cracks and breaks as follows:—

1st. A faint crack nearly encircling the entire coin, touching all the letters of the legend excepting D in UNITED and TES of STATES.

2nd. A break from border near the 2 of denominator, through the U to near N of UNITED.

3rd. An additional break from border over the middle of M and top of E of AMERICA.

4th. The break over ME is extended to the centre of C.

5th. The break near N of UNITED is extended in both directions over the top of N, and beneath the two first figures of the denominator.

6th. In addition to the above there is a scalene triangular break over the space between the letters F and A which terminates at the border near the apex of A.

7th. The break over MERIC is extended to near the right ribbon end.

8th. Break over the right of M is extended to the left upright of that letter.

No. 9.

"Spiked chin, with triple leaf under the left stand of F in OF."

Obv. Same as No. 7.

Rev. The distinguishing characteristic of this reverse is a group of three leaves almost directly under the left stand of F in OF. All letters in HALF CENT detached except N T which are joined at the top. Dividing line of fraction very short, with numerator nearly resting upon it. Right stem end points to right foot of A, and left stem to the curve of U.

Excessively rare—but two specimens now known.

No. 10.

"Four of date low—outer figures of denominator under ribbon ends."

Obv. LIBERTY similar to No. 3, with some slight differences in the spacing of the letters. It is in the date that we get

the dominant feature—the figure 4 is lower than on any of the previously described numbers, and almost on a line with other figures.

Rev. All letters within the wreath are entirely detached. There is a leaf at C, but certainly is not merged with that letter. The strong feature of this reverse is the fraction—the numerator equi-distant from knot and dividing line, which is very short; and the ribbon ends close to and extending over the outer figures of the denominator. Very rare.

Note:—Sometimes found with an irregular break from border through A in STATES and the left branch of wreath, then diagonally downward passing through the letters L and T and right branch of wreath, and C in AMERICA to border. Also a faint crack from D in UNITED to the first A in AMERICA, touching the base of all intervening letters; another slight crack starts from border under the central figure of the denominator, passing through the figure 1 and letters U, N and I to border.

No. 11.

"Spiked Chin, with low 4 Rev."

Obv. Same as No. 7.
Rev. Same as No 10.
Very rare.

1805

No. 1.

"Small 5—Stemless wreath."

Obv. All letters in LIBERTY very close together except that E, is distant from adjoining letters. The right stand of R is wanting. In date the 5 is smaller than the other figures, and on fine specimens shows the upper stroke double cut.

Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1804.

Note:—This variety is frequently found with the circle of the figure 5 in date closed by a faint crack or graver's mark, and upon the Rev. a break from U to border, and the entire wreath double cut.

No. 2.

"Large 5—with Stems."

Obv. Called "Over 3 Variety", as it is believed to be from dies used in making No. 3 of 1803 with the figure 3 obliterated, and otherwise recut. LIBERTY very near milling. In the date the 5 is high, and touches the drapery of the bust. This Obv. is always found with a diagonal break from lowest lock of hair

through 1 of date to lower half of the 8; a slight break through R T Y in LIBERTY; also a slight break under the chin, forming a diminutive goatee. The 5 is very often party double cut.

Rev. The stems of the wreath are thick and somewhat twisted; the left branch bears six berries. Letters H A L connected at their feet. In CENT the C is low, with each of the other letters a trifle higher than its neighbor to the left. The berry above F nearly touches that letter and has practically no stem. The denominator of fraction stands too far to the right, bringing the last cipher under the curve of the right ribbon end. This reverse always shows a break from right stand of final A in AMERICA to right ribbon end.

No. 3.

"Small 5—with stems; a berry above F in HALF."

Obv. Letters of LIBERTY more widely spaced than on No. 1, especially between B E R T. In date the 5 is small with the top on an exact curve with the other figures, which is also different from No. 1.

Rev. Same as No. 2. Very rare.

No. 4.

"Small 5—with stems; with a berry touching F."

Obv. Same as No. 3.

Rev. Same as No. 1 of 1803.

Excessively rare—but two specimens known.

1806

No. 1.

"Small 6—without stems."

Obv. Figures of date large, with the 6, which is too high, pointed at the top, and touches the drapery under the bust. All letters in LIBERTY uniformly spaced and close to the border.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 2 of 1804.

Note:—Die defects of this variety are shown (on some specimens) as follows: 6 of date partly double cut; break in border over I C A in AMERICA; and with the entire wreath double cut.

No. 2.

"Small 6—with stems. R and I in AMERICA connect."

Obv. A very close copy of No. 1. The entire word LIBERTY stand ½ mm. farther to the right. In date the 6 is closer to the O, has a blunt top which is a trifle farther from the drapery.

Rev. The left stem bears six berries, the lowest one on the outside attached to end of a leaf. Stem ends point to the curve of U and the right foot of A. Figures of fraction distant from regula (which is very short) and are widely spaced. The only letter within the wreath in contact with a leaf is the T in CENT; in this word the C and N are lower than E and T. A leaf on the left nearly touches the stand of D in UNITED.

In AMERICA the tail of the letter R connects with the stand of I. On no other U. S. Half Cents do these two letters actually connect. A rare variety.

No. 3.

"Large 6—with stems, with 6 touching bust."

Obv. In LIBERTY the right stand of R is missing, and the letter T is too low. In date the six is large, imperfectly formed, and extends into the bust.

Rev. Legend near milling and distant from wreath. In STATES the letters A and E are each a little too high. Spacing of letters in legend is compact except the C in AMERICA which is far from I. The letter F in HALF high, and T in CENT too large. But 5 berries on left branch, two of them on the outside, touching leaves. Dividing line of the fraction pointed at the right end, and is very close to the ribbon. All figures in fraction widely spaced. On all good specimens a slight dash will be seen from point of fourth right outside leaf extending to near R in AMERICA.

Note:—This obverse sometimes shows break from border to border through E R T Y, and 6 in date is very often partly double cut.

1807

No. 1.

Obv. The left ceriph of T is missing, and that letter is distant from R and Y. In date the figure 7 is large, reaching from border nearly to the drapery under the bust. Usually with plain border.

Rev. Same as Rev. 3 of 1806.

Note:—A break at the border above TY is found on some specimens of this date. It is very rare. The stem of the 7 is usually double cut. Many specimens of this date have entire border on both Obv. and Rev. milled; while on others the milling is on a portion of the circumference only, or entirely absent.

1808

No. 1.

"Small 8 over 7."

Obv. In LIBERTY E and R stand directly over the highest points of hair, and very near them. The T is larger than the other letters, and stands directly over the forelock. In date the second 8 has been cut over a figure 7, and is very close to the cipher.

Rev. This reverse is similiar to Rev. 2 of 1806. It differs in having but 5 berries on the left branch, and the right stem end is connected with the right foot of A by a slight break. In the word CENT the N is a little higher than the E, and the T higher than the N. In UNITED the D is high.

Note:—This variety is sometimes found with break over TY of LIBERTY extending to border, and is very rare.

No. 2.

"High 8 touching bust."

Obv. LIBERTY equi-distant from milling and the head. The T defective at its base. In date the second 8 is high, nearly touching the drapery, and is differently formed from the first.

Rev. Same as No. 1.

Note:—This reverse is sometimes found with a faint crack from border through I in UNITED to wreath, and other minor die defects.

No. 3.

Obv. Similar in every respect to No. 2, except as follows: The highest points of hair farther apart, and the letters E R much nearer the hair; especially the R.

Rev. Same an No. 1.

Note:—This number is undoubtedly from the same dies at No. 2 after the obv. die had been re-engraved to obliterate a slight accidental defect at top of the head.

1809

No. 1.

"In date the cipher has an inner circle high leaf ending near letter O."

Obv. In date there is an inner circle within the cipher.

Measurements:—Width of date centrally measured 7¼ mm.; from extrerely lowest point of star on the left to the highest 14½ mm.; stars on the right from lowest to highest point 12½ mm. There is a crack across the throat to the back of the head about 3 mm. below the ear.

Rev. In UNITED T and D stand a little below the line of the other letters. The E and S in STATES are smaller than the other letters. The highest leaf of wreath terminates near the O. The final S in STATES stands directly above the centre of the highest leaf. This variety can be identified at once by that feature alone. The ribbon end is more distant from U than on other varieties. Stem end usually missing.

No. 2.

"Perfect date Variety; high leaf ending midway between S and O."

Obv. Similar to No. 1. Date measures 7½ mm. The O lower than on former number of this year.

Rev. The T in UNITED is tilted slightly to the left, and is a trifle larger than the other letters. High leaf ends 1 mm. to the right of S, with end of next leaf ending beyond F. All letters in AMERICA very compact expect C, which is distant from I.

Note:—On the Obv. of some specimens of this variety a bad break on border is found running from near the center of hair to the 4th star from top on the right.

No. 3.

"The cipher of date without the inner circle; high leaf ending before the front of S."

Obv. Similar to No. 1, but without the inner circle to cipher of date, and the curl is more nearly over the 9. From 9 of date on some specimens a crack extends to and connects the stars upon the right.

Rev. The letter E in both UNITED and STATES stands a little too high. The highest leaf terminates a little past the front of S, and the next leaf to the right exactly below the front of the stand of F. There is a faint crack through E D in UNITED, touching all letters in STATES and terminating at the border near O; also a later break on the rim over D and S, and A T E in STATES.

Note:—This obverse is found with a crack from border over first star at the left connecting all from the second to the sixth.

No. 4.

"Close star variety high leaf below front of S, and another below right stand of F in OF."

Obv. The date is 7¾ mm. wide and spaced thus 1 8 09, the cipher directly under the curl, and first star to the right is but 1¼ mm. from the 9.

Rev. Same as No. 3.

No. 5.

"Very close star variety—high leaf past front of S and another ending to the right of F."

Obv. Date measures 7½ mm. wide, with first star to the right 1 mm. distant. Lower curl directly above space between 09. This obverse shows a crack from border to the fourth star on the left, thence through the fifth and sixth to the border again.

Rev. Letters of legend more widely spaced than any of the preceding numbers of this year. High leaf terminates slightly past the front of S; another to the right of the stand of F.

1810

No. 1.

Obv. The date is 7½ mm. wide. All figures large and uniformly spaced. Lower curl above the cipher, but a little to the left. This has a crack in die from the highest part of the hair to the three upper stars on the left; another crack extends from ribbon to jaw, terminating in a well formed period on the cheek.

Rev. The letter T, wherever used in the legend, is a trifle too large. D in UNITED low. In AMERICA the R and I nearly touch on the base line.

Note:—This Obv. has a defect, on some specimens, from edge below 1 in date through lrst and second stars. When I first saw this coin I pronounced it a defective planchet (as its appearance would indicate) but having seen another with identically the same defect in exactly the same place, it seemed to me to be increditable that two planchets could have exactly the same defects locally. The Rev. sometimes shows a big break from T in UNITED to last S in STATES.

1811

No. 1.

"Close 18 in date."

Obv. Date centrally measured is 6⅔ mm. The last two figures of date lean to the left. The final 1 under the lowest curl. The first 1 and 8 but ¾ mm. apart.

Rev. Legend very close to milling, especially on the left, with all letter nearly uniformly spaced. Exactly under the centre of the first A in AMERICA is a berry on quite a long stem; the next berry to the right is under the upright of R.

No. 2.

"Distant 18 in date."

Obv. Date 7+mm. wide on centre line; the figure 8 being more distant from first "1" than on No. 1, and the final 1 of date a trifle farther to the right from the curl. The first 1 and 8 are 1+mm. apart.

Rev. Same an No. 1.

Note:—This obverse is sometimes found with a heavy break from border over the first four stars on the left. Specimens with this break are quite rare.

There are restrikes of this year made from original dies after they had been sold by the government as old iron. As they were struck without authority they can only be considered as counterfeits.

1825

No. 1.

"Curl over 25 of date."

Obv. Measurements:—Date is 6⅓ mm. wide, at center; distance from point of 5 to point of first star to the right is 3⅓ mm.; from 1 to left hand star (point to point) is 5¼ mm. The second star to the right is double cut.

Rev. From top of U to top of final A in AMERICA, is 11½ mm.; from D to S is 2⅓ mm.; from S to O is 3 mm.; and from the stand of F to A is 2½ mm.

Note:—Some obverse of this variety show a faint crack from border to front of hair, then across the hair and out to border on the right, and part of profile double cut; also, a crack from point of 2nd star on left to border.

No. 2.

"Curl over 5 of date."

Obv. This variety is easily recognized by the 5 of date, which is directly beneath the lowest curl of hair. Distance from 1 to left hand star (point to point) is 4½ mm.

Rev. Same as No. 1.

1826

No. 1.

High Leaf past S

Obv. Width of date is 6+mm.; from top of 1 to first star to the left 3¾ mm.; from 6 to first star on the right 3¾-mm. The lower arm of L in LIBERTY is detached from the upright. Between 6 and the first star to the right is a cluster of criss cross scratches always found with this Obv.

Rev. In UNITED the letters I T stand close together; the T and D too low. The S T of STATES very close at the top. A and M stand apart; all other letters in legend very compact. The left sides of E and R in AMERICA are double cut, and on coins well struck up the left side of M and C as well. The last A in AMERICA is poor, there is a slight crack from left ribbon to U in UNITED, and there is also a projection from top of D.

Note:—Some obverse specimens of this No. show defects as follows:—A crack from border above the L in LIBERTY to the head, then a crack from bridge of nose, passing near the eye and through the lower locks of hair to border below last star on right; another from border to the left of the 8th star, through the back hair to Y in LIBERTY. Also a crack from point of bust to 1st. star on left and then to 2nd. star.

No. 2.

"High Leaf under S."

Obv. Width of date 6+mm.; from top of 1 to first star on the left is 4 mm.; from 6 to first star to the right is 3¼ mm. The 6 of date is directly beneath the curl. The net work of scratches always found on No. 1 between 6 and first star to the right is absent from this No.

This obv. is sometimes found with a heavy die break from border to, and nearly obliterating the fourth and fifth stars on the left.

Rev. All letters of legend uniformly spaced; and there is less space between the different words than on No. 1. The highest leaf terminates directly under the right edge of the last S in STATES. Measurements:—S to O 2⅓ mm.; F. to A 2⅓ mm. There are slight cracks from stem and leaves on left wreath.

Note:—This reverse is believed to have been used first in striking the HALF CENT of 1828, and its use in conjunction with the obverse die of 1826 is an unintentional restrike. See Note in relation to 1828.

1828

No. 1.

"High Leaf extending beyond S."

Obv. Lower arm of L in LIBERTY detached from the upright, date large with 8 directly under the lowest curl. The date is 6½ mm. wide; top of 1 to first star on the left 3¾ mm.; from 8 to first star on the right 2⅓ mm.

Rev. Letters of legend evenly spaced; the highest leaf terminates slightly beyond the S; U in UNITED imperfected. Letter O in OF is low, also first S in STATES. Measurements:—From S to O 2¾ mm.; from F to A 2⅓ mm.

No. 2.

High Leaf under S."

Obv. Measurements:—Date 6⅓ mm. wide. From 1 to star on left 3¾ mm. From 8 to star on right 2½ mm. Second star on left usually partly double cut.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 2 of 1826.

No. 3.

"12 Star Variety."

Obv. This obverse has but twelve stars—7 on the left, and 5 on the right.

Rev. Close copy of Rev. 1.—points of difference being as follows:—Letters U and A farther from ends of stem and ribbon; the highest leaf extends farther beyond the S than in No. 1; the next leaf to the right terminates a little beyond the stand of F. High outside berry on the right under the space between A and M.

In describing Rev. 2. 1828, the writer had before him a coin struck from practically a perfect die. The only defect, if it could be so called, is a very faint crack from the upright stroke of E in CENT to the left foot of A in HALF. It is believed that this die was first used in 1828, and coins of that date in perfect condition are common, and others showing slight cracks and breaks developed in its use. Subsequently it was used in conjunction with an 1826 Obv. showing all of the cracks and breaks referred to above; and this is further confirmed by the most careful measurements and alignments in addition to the fact that the location and character of all cracks and breaks are absolutely identical in every particular, and the further fact that all Half Cents having this reverse in its most perfect condition bear the date 1828. Probably the use of this reverse in conjunction with an obverse of 1826 was an unintentional restrike.

1829

No. 1.

Obv. 1. There is but one known variety of the HALF CENTS of this year. Figures in date a trifle smaller than those used in the preceding year. The 9 is directly beneath the lowest curl.

Rev. In the word STATES the final S is too small; in AMERICA the letter C is distant from both I and A. Top leaf extends slightly beyond the last S in STATES. This Rev. is usually found with a crack from leaf to and through C in CENT and the H, and quite often on to the fourth inside berry of the left branch of wreath.

Note:—Outer points of stars on Obv. of some specimens of this date extend to the border.

1831

No. 1

No HALF CENTS of this year were struck for circulation, but a limited number of proofs were made.

Obv. The border on both Obv. and Rev. appears to be formed with beads, owing, possibly, to a slight shifting of the dies in striking, as there is a line between base and points of the milling nearly encircling the coin. The figure 3 of date is sligh-ty low.

Rev. Letters of legend uniformly spaced. In STATES the E is large and S small. Some letters of words HALF CENT are partly double cut. High leaves terminate at end of S and under F. This is the same as Reverse No. 2 of 1832.

No. 2.

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Same as Rev of 1852, restrikes.

RESTRIKES

Restrikes from the original dies of this year, and also 1836, were made; also restrikes from the Obverse dies of these two dates, with a Reverse die of 1852; those struck with the original Reverse dies are usually bulged or convex on Reverse, and those bearing date 1831 show crack through T and E in STATES.

1832

No. 1.

"High leaves end under E and F."

Obv. Part of the border shows the same border effect as on 1831 HALF CENT. Date low and small. From top of 1 to first star 5 mm. From the tail of the 2 to lowest star on the right 4 mm.

Rev. Spacing of letters in legend very irregular. T E S in STATES stand very close together. In AMERICA all letters are compact except C, which stands distant from I and A. High leaf ends under E. But little space between S and O. Some letters of "HALF CENT" double cut. Measurements:—S to O 1 mm. F to A 1½ mm.

Note:—Some are found with a crack from border to wreath between letters T and E in STATES.

No. 2.

"High leaves terminate at end of S and under uprights of F."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 1 of 1831.

Note:—On both there is a slight crack from upper inside leaf running diagonally downward to the left. Some are found with a faint crack which runs from milling to wreath through A in STATES.

No. 3.

"High leaves terminate at ends of S and F."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Letter U distant from ribbon end. High leaf ends a little past the front of S. Letter D in UNITED and last S in STATES, each partly double cut. A faint line to the left of, and parallel with, the left arm of A appears to indicate that the engraver started to cut this letter too far to the left, and then changed it to its present position. In CENT the N is too low. Measurtments:—S to O 2⅓ mm. F to A 2 m.

1833

No. 1.

High leaves terminate under S and upright of F.

Obv. Profile similar to last. Figures of date large; stars small. Width of date centrally measured 5¼ mm.; from top of 1 to star on the left 4½ mm.; from 3 to star on tht right 3¼ mm. A crack starts above the hair and passes to the left through all the stars to outside point of second star from bottom.

Rev. In UNITED there is little space between letters, and the E a trifle too high; letters in STATES more widely spaced, and both S's too small. The remainder of legend equally spaced, except that C is distant from both I and A; upper leaves terminate a trifie to the left of the centers of S and F. Measurements:—S to O 2⅓ mm., F to A 1¾ mm.

Note:—On a large percentage of the HALF CENTS struck this year are to be found "Suction marks", on both Obv. and Rev., but more frequently on the reverse. They are usually found to the left of the lower curl, and under the chin, on the Obv., while upon the reverse they appear in many different places, to such an extent that seldom are two found exactly alike. In some places they appear as double stems to the berries, in others they show curves and turns puzzling to the amateur collector. These "Suction marks" are probably caused by the difference in thickness of different planchets used, and are always a reverse outline of some prominent part of the opposite side of the coin. Similar "Suction marks" are usually found on the HALF CENTS of 1834 and 1835, and occasionally on other dates.

1834

No. 1.

Obv. "But one variety known with this date." Width of date 5½ mm.—the 4 being "plain"—from 1 to first star at the left 4⅓ mm. and from 4 to star on the right is 3¼ mm.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 1 of 1833.

1835

No. 1.

"Little space between S and T in STATES."

Obv. The date is small, the 1 and 5 being a trifle larger than central figures. In LIBERTY L is deftctive, giving the word the appearance of LIBERTY. The 5 shows double cutting in the centre of the curved part. Measurements:—From 1 to left star 4½ mm.; from 5 to right star 3½ mm.

Rev. Letters in UNITED equally spaced, the E a trifle too high; first S in STATES very close to T, and both are small. In OF the O is high. All letters of CENT double cut. Upper leaves terminate under the centre of S and F. There is a very slight crack over AMERICA. Measurements:—S to O 2½ mm.; F to A 2 mm.

Note:—This Rev. sometimes show other cracks. First from border touching the right edge of O in OF curving downward to the left then through wreath to top of A and centre of H and on to border 1 mm. to the right of D. A vertical crack from border to top of R, and a diagonal one from border to C of AMERICA.

No. 2.

"A wide space between S and T in STATES."

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Same as No. 1. of 1833, and at first as perfect.

Note:—Some show a crack from border through top of second T in STATES to near E; and also an apparent chipping of die between C of CENT and leaf beneath; and on other specimens of this variety letters OF and AM are double cut at bottom; and others have a break from border to wreath through first S in STATES.

1836

No. 1.

Obv. The letter L in LIBERTY perfectly formed. In date the 3 is low. Measurements:—from first star on left to 1 of date 4½ mm. from point to point; from 6 to lowest star on right 3 mm.

Rev. Letters U and A near to and equi-distant from stem and ribbon ends. S's in STATES too low, and final S tilted to the right; upper leaves terminate just past commencement of S and at end of F. In CENT the T is a trifle too high.

Note:—No HALF CENTS were struck this year for general circulation; only a limited number of proofs were coined.

See NOTE on "Restrikes in 1831", which also applies to this date.

No. 2.

Obv. Same as No. 1.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 1 of 1852. A restriker.

After 1835 no Half Cents were coined for general circulation until 1849, and on and after that date they were issued regularly each year excepting 1852 until their coinage was discontinued early in 1857. In 1836 proofs were coined as previously mentioned. A series of proofs were coined in a limited number bearing dates 1840 to and including 1849 and 1852, all having the same design, both Obv. and Rev. as the one cent piece of that period. The Reverse of this entire series was evidently struck from the same die, all having 10 large berries and one small berry in the wreath. This series is known and designated as "Originals" to distinguish them from a series of "Restrikes" made in 1858 for a special purpose, bearing same date and struck from the same Obv. dies as were the originals, but with a reverse die having eleven berries in the wreath, all very small. It is said that but 18 copies of each year were struck for this series. and both "Originals" and "Restrikes"—are excessively rare. Half Cents in proof condition were made in other years but do not command the prices paid for dates when proofs only were coined.

1840

No. 1.

(Original)

Obv. Same design as on the One Cent piece issued in 1843. Small figures in date.

Rev. Same design as Rev. of the Ose Cent piece issued in 1843, excepting value. The wreath bearing 10 large berries, and one very small berry.

No. 2.

(Restrike)

Obv. Same as No 1.

Rev. Same as Rev. 1 except that the wreath has 11 berries, all very small.

1841—1842—1843—1844—1845—1846 each have two varieties identically the same in every particular (excepting date from year to year) as those described for 1840. One variety known as "Original" and the other as the "Restrike".

1847 & 1848

Two varieties of each year same as those of 1840 and following, except that the figures of date are large.

1849

No. 1.

(Original)

Obv. Same as No. 1 of 1840.

Rev. Same as Rev. 1 of 1840.

No. 2.

(Restrike)

Obv. Same as No. 1 of 1840.
Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

No. 3.

Obv. Same as No. 1 of 1840, except date has large figures.
Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

1850

No. 1.

Obv. Same as No. 3 of 1849, but has small figures in date, with slanting 5.
Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

1851

Obv. Same type as preceding. Date small figures, with slanting 5, sometimes found with double cut date.
Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

1852

(Proofs Only)

No. 1.

(Original)

Obv. Same as No. 1 of 1848, large figures in date.
Rev. Same as Rev. 1 of 1840.

No. 2.

(Restrike)

Obv. Same as No. 1.
Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

1853

No. 1.

Obv. Date large, slanting 5. Figure 1 of date on some specimens of this year appear to have been recut.

Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

1854

No. 1.

Obv. Date small, slanting 5.

Rev. Same as Rev. 2 of 1840.

1855

No. 1.

Obv. Date small, both 5's slanting; 3rd and 4th stars at left are double cut. Sometimes found with milling broken on border.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 2 of 1840.

1856

No. 1.

Obv. Date small, upright 5.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 2 of 1840.

No. 2

Obv. Date small, upright 5. Struck in copper nickel, very rare.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 2 of 1840.

1857

No. 1.

Obv. Date large, upright 5. Usually these dies are in anything but perfect condition, and subsequently from use are badly broken on both edges and over part of date. Have also seen the reverse almost completely double cut.

Rev. Same as Rev. No. 2 of 1840.

DEGREES OF RARITY.

Date	Nos.	Rarity	Date	Nos.	Rarity	Date	Nos.	Rarity
1793	1	4	1804	4	2	1832	2	2
	2	4		5	2		3	1
	3	5		6	4	1833	1	1
	4	5		7	2	1834	1	1
1794	1	3		8	3	1835	1	1
	2	7		9	9		2	1
	3	7		10	6	1836	1	8
	4	3		11	7		2	9
	5	3	1805	1	2	1840	1	9
	6	5		2	2		2	9
	7	4		3	7	1841	1	9
	8	5		4	9		2	9
	9	4	1806	1	2	1842	1	9
1795	1	3		2	6		2	9
	2	6		3	2	1843	1	9
	3	3	1807	1	2		2	9
	4	4	1808	1	4	1844	1	9
	5	3		2	2		2	9
	6	3		3	9	1845	1	9
	7	7	1809	1	3		2	9
	8	9		2	2	1846	1	9
1796	1	6		3	5		2	9
	2	9		4	3	1847	1	9
1797	1	9		5	3		2	9
	2	4	1810	1	3	1848	1	9
	3	4	1811	1	4		2	9
	4	2		2	6	1849	1	9
1800	1	3	1825	1	1		2	9
1802	1	4		2	3		3	1
	2	10	1826	1	2	1850	1	1
1803	1	3		2	5	1851	1	1
	2	2	1828	1	3	1852	1	10
	3	2		2	1		2	8
	4	7		3	3	1853	1	1
1804	1	4	1829	1	1	1854	1	1
	2	2	1831	1	8	1856	1	1
				2	9		2	6
	3	2	1832	1	2	1857	1	1

Plate I.

Plate - II

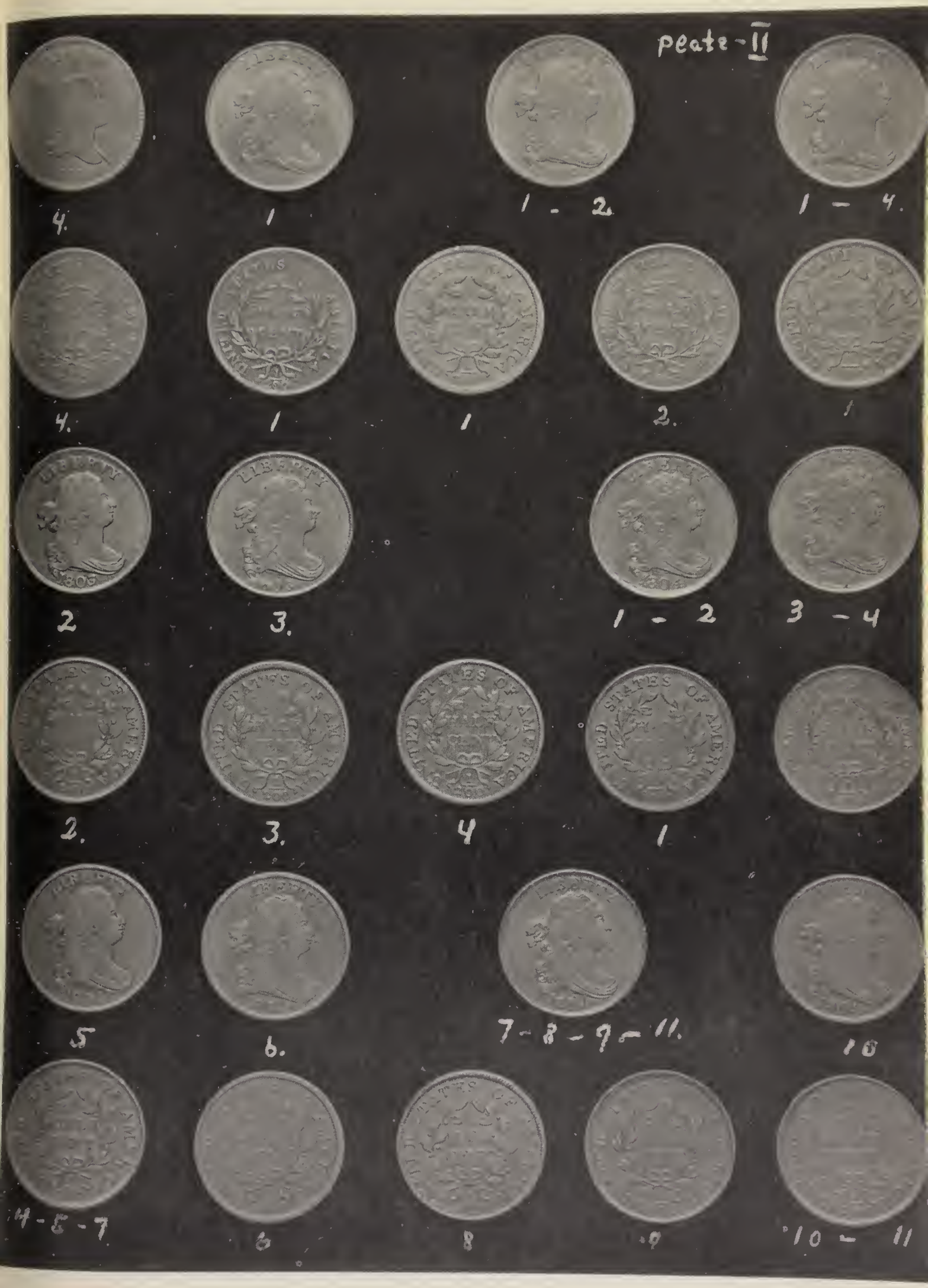
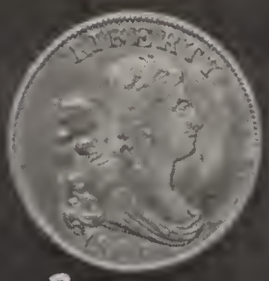

4.
1
1 - 2.
1 - 4.
4.
1
1
2.
1
LIBERTY
1806
2
3.
1 - 2
3 - 4
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2.
3.
4
1
5
6.
7 - 8 - 9 - 11.
10
14 - 5 - 7
6
8
9
10 - 11

Plate III.

1

2



3 - 4

1

2

1

2 3

4

1

2

3.

1

1

2

3.

3.

1

1 - 2 - 3.

1

2

3.

4.

5.

1

2

3 - 4

5.

Plate IV

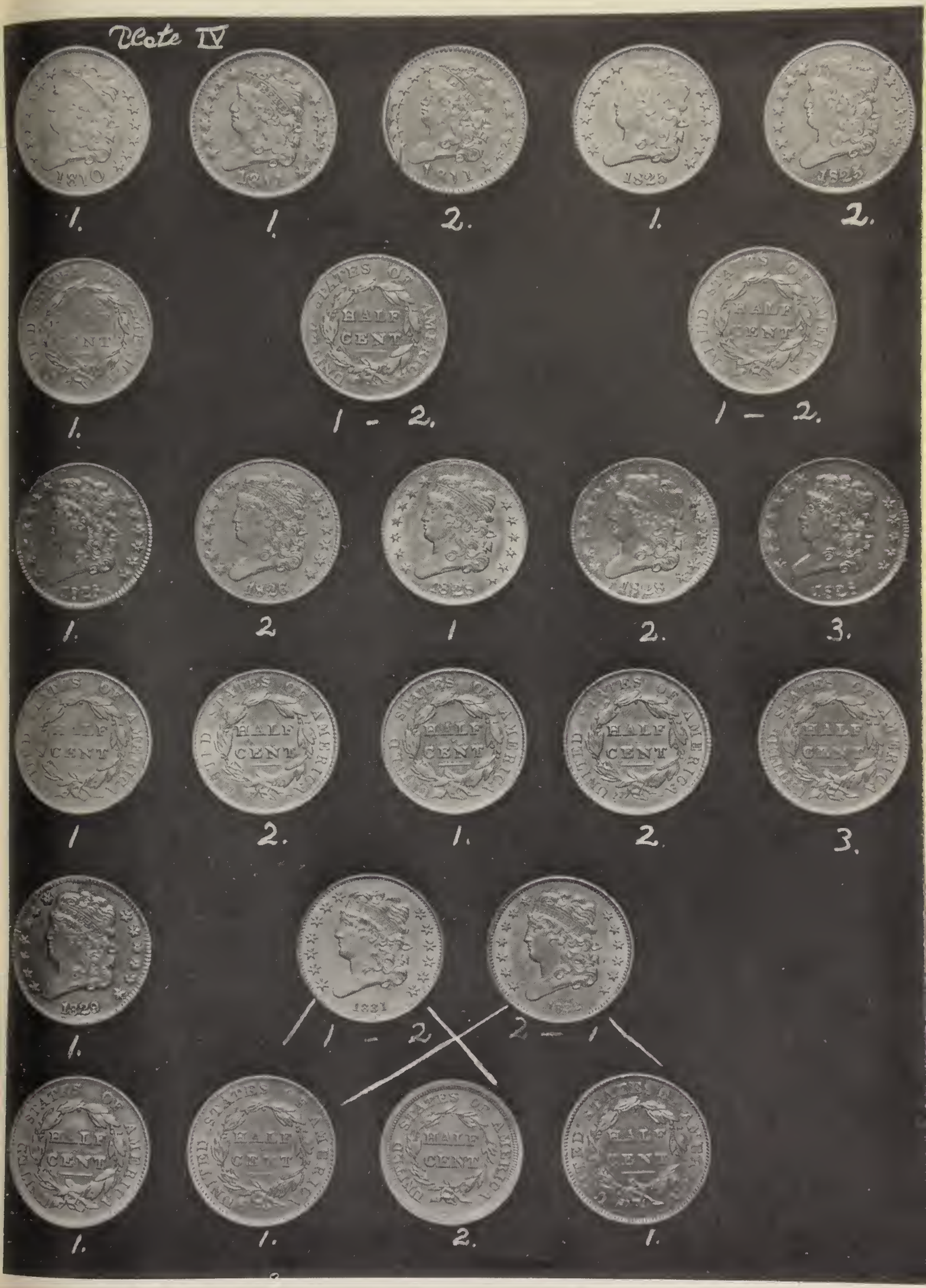


Plate V

3.

1.

1.

1 - 2.

3.

1.

1.

1.

2

1 - 2

1 - 2.

1

2

1.

2.

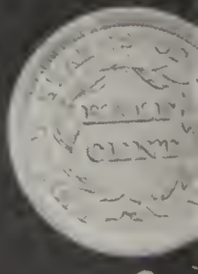
1 - 2

1 2.

1

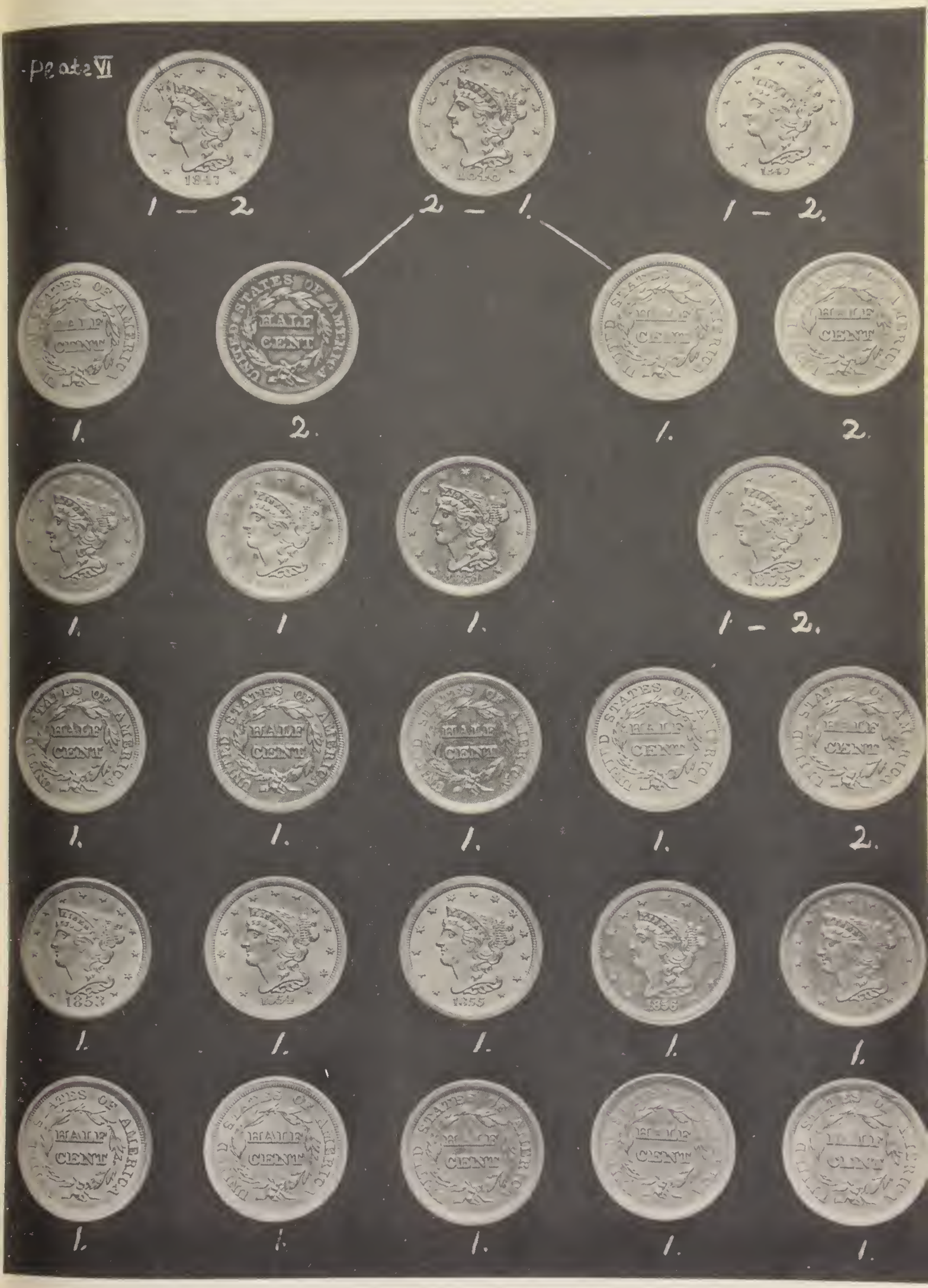
2

1



2

Plate VI



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